

The Point

Issue 4

Week of Oct. 13, 1999

Fitchburg State College

Leaders wanted for the leadership college

by AnneMarie Donahue

"I think that the work that you are doing will play a big role in the future," Kerry Kennedy Cuomo said to an intimate crowd that gathered in the Ellis White Lecture Hall for the commencement of the third annual Leadership Conference on Oct. 6. Cuomo spoke of her work with international issues facing immigrants.

Many students, either in the Leadership Academy or involved in leadership positions on campus, were invited to participate in the workshops presented by the faculty and staff of Fitchburg State College.

"All Americans are immigrants or descendants of immigrants," said Cuomo, who began working in the field of human rights in 1981. Throughout her career, Cuomo has investigated

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Kerry Kennedy Cuomo was the guest speaker at FSC's annual Leadership Conference on Oct. 6.

Students discuss diversity

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Trent Reznor handles 'Fragile' with care

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Jocks don't always have more fun

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Advice is worth the price

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Fans' loyalty put to the test

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Scholarships offered to potential leaders

Fitchburg State College has announced a new \$150,000 scholarship program that will target high-achieving students in Massachusetts and beyond.

Students with strong academic credentials, or who have demonstrated leadership potential, will receive generous annual awards, some that cover the cost of tuition.

The merit awards will add to Fitchburg State's existing mix of merit- and need-based scholarships.

Students accepted into the Leadership Academy, the college's honors program, receive full tuition and fee scholarships.

"Our single most important issue is maintaining high academic quality," said Robert McGann, dean of enrollment management.

"These new scholarships will increase the number of hard-working students we can serve."

In recent years, the college has tightened its academic standards, refusing entrance to more students than ever before.

The Scholar Awards will be funded by the Fitchburg State College

Foundation, the college's private fund raising arm.

Gifts to the college last year totaled more than \$1 million, and the institution's endowment now stands at \$6 million, the highest in the state college system, according to McGann.

"A state college is a great value," said McGann. "The wide-reaching nature of our scholarship offerings increases that value dramatically. Talented students will benefit from our excellent teachers, small classrooms and leadership-development opportunities.

While grade point averages and standardized test scores will serve as primary factors in determining awards, other variables will be considered.

"As the state's Leadership College, we will also look closely at students who have shown themselves to be leaders in some manner" or who have excelled outside the classroom," McGann said.

Federal, state and philanthropic programs provide Fitchburg State students with more than \$6 million in grants, loans and scholarships.

Grants applications now available

Ruth Butler Achievement Grant applications are now available from the Grant Center. These awards are given in honor of the late Professor Ruth Butler of the Mathematics Department. Grants are to be awarded to promote professional or artistic development, or activities that are appropriate to furthering the goals of Fitchburg State College. Grants normally may be awarded to full-time members of the faculty, administration and student body of Fitchburg State College. If in any one year such grants use less than the funds available, part-time members of the three groups may be considered as grantees.

Grant applicants must submit a completed application form together with a resume or curriculum vita.

Grant applications may be obtained from the Grant Center, Thompson Building, Room 115 or from the Grant Center web page at <http://falcon.fsc.edu/grantctr/butler.html>, or by calling 665-3368. Applications are due at the Grant Center by 5 p.m. on Oct. 22.

Diversity meeting brings students together

by Anthony Falvey

I hadn't planned on attending the Oct. 4 diversity meeting, but as it turned out, I was glad I did. I ended up there by mistake, after rushing to Hammond for a 12:30 class that was not actually supposed to meet that day. Since I was already in Hammond, I decided to stay and experience the 1:30 p.m. diversity meeting.

There was one guest speaker, and a panel of several Fitchburg State College employees, faculty and students. The questions to be addressed were quickly established: How can FSC become more diverse? Is racism a neg-

ative factor here at the college? There were many interesting perspectives brought up at this meeting, and we gained a clearer view of the concepts of diversity and racism.

Unfortunately, I came into this meeting as the "survivor" of a handful of situations at FSC that had not promoted diversity, and I'm sure I was not the only one. I believe that if there are students here who are unhappy due to diversity situations or racism complications, we truly need to get together. This college is not going to adjust or change for just one unhappy student. But this college does have a number of positive support groups waiting for new

members and ideas.

On the positive side, I am an Asian-American student who has never experienced racism at FSC. The diversity meeting I attended was an important step in the right direction. There should be more of these types of meetings, so college administrators and students can pinpoint the changes that need to be made to create a more positive learning and living environment.

All in all, I'm glad I mistakenly thought I had a 12:30 p.m. class that day. Would I have gone to the meeting if I had not confused my schedule? Honestly, I don't know.

LA STRADA FILM AT FITCHBURG STATE

Fitchburg State College's International Film Series will open on Oct. 27 with a screening of Fellini's classic *La Strada* at 7 p.m. in the Hammond Building's Ellis White Lecture Hall.

Legendary director Federico Fellini's powerful and poetic *La Strada* film his break with the neo-realistic tradition. It introduces many of the visual motifs that he would dwell on throughout his career: the sea, parades, the circus, and differing women.

The story is one of the most familiar in cinema. A brutish strongman named Zampano (Anthony Quinn) tours Italy, living in a ramshackle van pulled by a motorcycle. He needs an assistant for his act, and from a poor widow at the seaside he purchases her slow-witted daughter Gelsomina (Giulietta Masina). He is cruel to the young woman, but she has a Chaplinesque innocence that somehow shields her from the worst of life, and she is proud of his accomplishments, such as learning to play his signature tune on a trumpet.

Gunther Hoos, assistant professor of communications/media, will lead a discussion following the films.

The presentation is funded in part by the Center for Italian Culture.

Admission is \$5 for the general public and \$3 for students and seniors. For more information, call 978-665-3709.

Leadership, continued from cover

abuses committed by U.S. immigration officials against refugees from El Salvador.

Cuomo, who has led 33 human rights delegations, was invited to speak at the conference because of her diverse background in the area of human rights, including child labor, disappearances, freedom of expression, the environment and women's rights.

The conference was comprised of two speakers, three break-out sessions and dinner in the Underground. The break-out sessions ran under an hour each and provided the students involved with comprehensive lessons in dealing with leadership, gaining the trust of those you lead and dealing with the problems that hurt those in the leadership positions.

WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE!

Academic and Administrative Departments and Club Presidents
Your support for our Open House Program, Sunday, October 24!

To help our guests become well informed and enthusiastic about our college community, we would appreciate a representative from your department and/or organization manning a display table from 1:00pm until 2:00pm in the G-Lobby on Sunday, October 24, 1999. During the hour time period, please disperse information regarding your department and/or organization. You will have the opportunity to meet 500 plus visitors during this program. You can encourage our prospective students to seriously consider applying for admission next fall.

I look forward to working with you on this campus-wide endeavor. We need to inform our prospective families about our wide variety of fulfilling and interesting resources. That means, "We Need You".

Please RSVP by either calling Susan Petralia in the Admissions office at 665-3144 or leaving your response on my voice mail at x3148. Susan is available from 8:30am - 5:00pm every weekday to answer any questions/concerns you may have regarding our Open House programs. Thank you for your time and attention.



Quote of the day:

*"Of all those arts in which the wise excel
Nature's chief masterpiece is writing well."*

John Sheffield
British statesman, poet
1682

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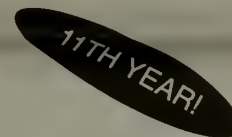
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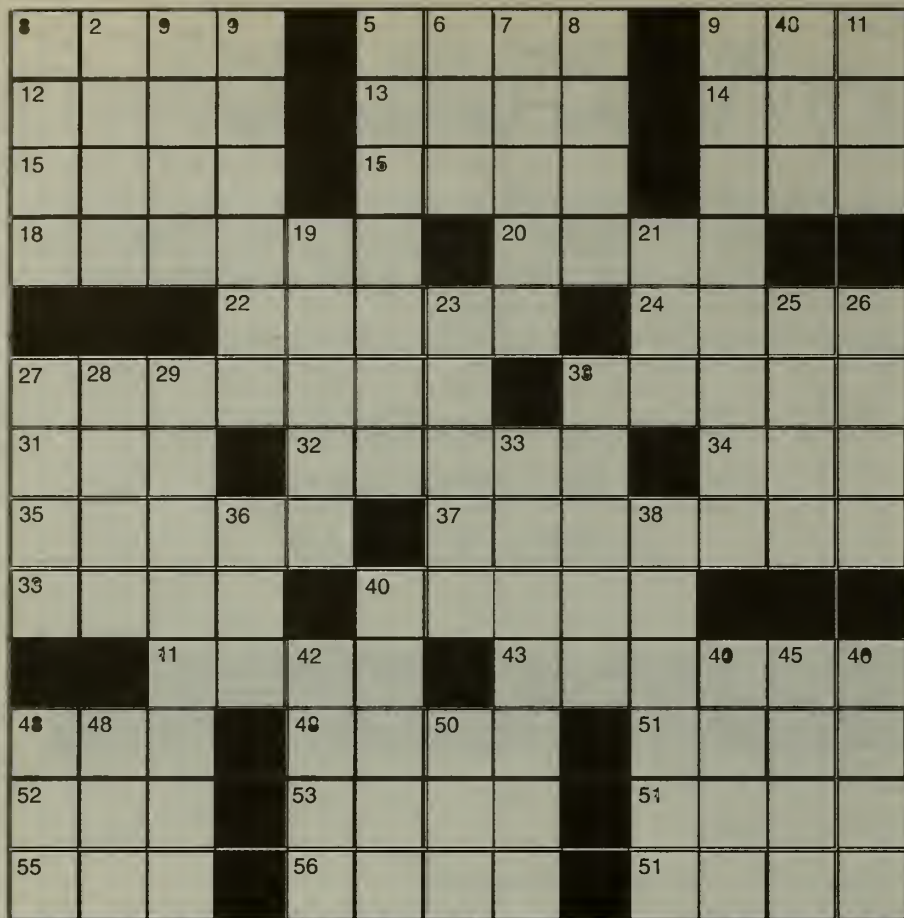
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ACROSS

1. Copier
5. Perpetually
9. In the know
12. Identify
13. Teamster's rig
14. Exist
15. Taunt
16. Garden starter
17. Doze
18. Infuriated
20. Smell strongly
22. Cent
24. Wheat _____
27. Non-appearance
30. Assent
31. Decimal point
32. Royal rule
34. Dine
35. Drab green color
37. Pancake skillet
39. Hindu garb
40. Possessive adjective
41. Skin irritation

DOWN

1. Initial stake
2. Most numerous chess piece
3. Arabian prince
4. Record again
5. Basic nature
6. Sign of triumph
7. Grinding material
8. Amusement park
9. Yearned
10. Significant time

11. _____ rally

19. Category
21. Humpty Dumpty, e.g.
23. Whinny
25. Sincere
26. Dole
27. Uproars
28. Gaucho's tool
29. Exciting
30. Licorice flavored seasoning
33. Earned before expenses
36. By means of
38. Church official
40. Undivided
42. ERA or RBI
44. The _____ Star State
45. _____ out (barely makes)
46. Take a load off
47. Saloon
48. Unprocessed metal
50. Adult males

Solution is on page 5

The Point

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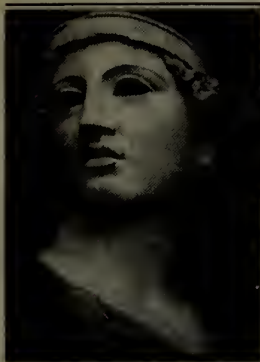
The Point considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length.

All articles must be typed or legibly handwritten and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a Point article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

The content of any article labeled Opinion does not necessarily represent the views of the Point, its staff, or Fitchburg State College.

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As Foretold by Cassandra

Horoscopes

Aries Ideas of long lasting relationships are dancing in your head! But if you don't talk about your problems with you honey these will never be anything other than visions! You will slowly but surely come into a little bit of cash and this will usher in a waves of pleasant opportunities for social activities. You may want to stay away until you've figured out what's going on with you emotionally.

Taurus A surprise developement at the work place could give you a little food for thought . Things are not as bad as they seem, it's people laying their negativity down on you! you will get an opportunity to make some quick cash, but stay far far away. Acting in haste could cause for a sorry situation! On the home front things seem to be on the up and up, so why not take the trip to see the homestead?

Gemini You will be given intersting tid bits of gossip, however refrain from spreading it like wildfire as it's all untrue. Research every angle before you jump into something that you may not be prepared for! Your insignificant other will give you some info that is going to cause major worries, time to rethink this relationship! You are going to get some interesting opportunities to work and earn big money soon.

Cancer Seriously, it's time you found somewhere quiet to go and hang out! Try buying somethin nice for yourself, something that you need though because you don't need to tear through those meager funds! Worries about a job could be a warning in disguise, try showing up on time once in a while and rethink telling your boss off! After the 15 of this month something may appear that will make those blues dissappear!

Leo You are in some big trouble. Friends and family are not happy with your recent actions. Probably because it's your fault! You can't act like a jerk and expect people to be happy with it! Try and communicate with people before your relationships with friends is completely destroyed. Also when they talk YOU LISTEN! Don't get mad and storm away, actually listen!

Virgo Your personal success rate is going to be in the spotlight lately, making many jealous and annoyed. Also look out for that bad investment you made a while ago, it's proof of how things can be totally distorted thanks t lies. If you assert yourself and follow your private hunches this little loss will remain off the records so you can keep you spotless profile!

Libra Things springing up and ruining your plans is going to become a regular habit with you! However, things will change soon, so just hold on until they turn around! Thoughts of taking a long trip to a far away place live in you mind, but are soon replaced by thoughts of no money and classes. Talking about your job is always a great source of annoyance, but you have to talk about it.

Scorpio You will be given some info about your other half which could have been previously kept from you for one reason or the other. Take it as it is, a chance to learn something about your relationship skills. Worries about your money will come and go, don't let them affect you as your money is secure for now.

Sagittarius You will recieve an invitation from a friend soon, but you will have strange reservatins about this activity because of it's cost. Don't spend lots of time and money on entertainment up here, granted Cinema world is inexpensive you shouldn't go there every night. Grab some buddies and see a flick on the weekends - keep the weekdays for study!

Capricorn You are the envy of all your friends, you are doing well making buddies and the job scene has some great changes related to money coming your way! However home life is unclear as some people (and I'm not saying who!) are going to be drama queens! Just let that person blow everything out of proportion just head for the hill when she acts like an idiot!

Aquarius A friend is going to bring you some annoying news, before biting her head off just take it in stride and relax. At the end of the month try to escape from the tense situation at home by attending some of the functions put on by the school! There is a great chance to get out and help the community by participating in the Halloween party,contact the Volunteer Center at FSC and find out more!

Pisces Money is coming your way, but be wary of it as it may come with strings. Also your mind is playing tricks on you lately with some crazy ideas about friends and family. You aren't paranoid, but you aren't correct in thinking that people are out to get you. The people who care about you only want the best for you and they are trying to protect you from what they fear you might run into.

Answers to the Patriot Loyalty quiz:

Test results:

If you answered "No" 9-10 times -
You should seek professional help.

If you answered "No" 6-8 times -
You are a pessimist

If you answered "No" 5 times -
You are a rationalist

If you answered "Yes" 6-8 times -
You are an optimist

If you answered "Yes" 9-10 times -
You are a true Pats fanatic

A	P	E	R		E	V	E	R		H	E	P
N	A	M	E		S	E	M	I		A	R	E
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			P	E	N	N	Y		G	E	R	M
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B	E	G		T	E	N	D		N	E	S	T

Halloween: The Series!

by Evil Trevor

With Halloween approaching I would hate to send any of you to the movie store without a clue as to what to rent. Obviously Friday the 13th is an excellent choice and a marathon of Nightmare on Elm Street isn't out of the question, but doesn't tradition call for a horror movie marathon of Halloween's namesake?

Moustafa Akkad's masterpiece series Halloween is perfect for just such an occasion. The first is an immortal classic which rejuvenated the horror industry in a way that no other movie could have. Introducing Jamie Lee Curtis as the goody-two-shoes Laurie Strode, this movie reinvented what horror is today. No longer scared of giant bugs and traditional movie monsters the intelligent cultured and pre-Regan society was xenophobic. Thusly, something out of what they know was going to scare the pants off of them, a perfect time to introduce Michael Myers. A serial killer with nothing better to do one rainy Halloween night he decides to travel back to his hometown of Haddonville and massacre a bunch of horny babysitters and their dates.

This movie ushered in several wonderful horror films and inspired a generation of filmmakers and filmgoers. Unfortunately there was a sequel, and several other movies...

Halloween 2 picks up right where Halloween left off. Laurie is taken to the hospital where she, through a series of flashbacks, learns that she is the sister of Michael Myers, who was adopted by the Strode family when the Myers' left town. One by one Michael picks off the candy strippers left in charge of the hospital. Of course, Laurie gets away.

The plot twist of making Laurie Michael's sister only served to destroy the tension cleverly instilled in the first movie. The idea that Michael isn't out to kill just anyone, he's out to get his relatives and their buddies.

Halloween The Season of the Witch (3) is a strange little unofficial sequel that had nothing to do with the original series except that they played clips from the movie. Directed by Tommy Lee Wallace, an editor for Carpenter, this train wreck of a movie replaces Michael Myers with a strange Irish man

and the most annoying song ever recorded (no, I don't mean Dancin' Queen by ABBA). The premise of the movie is that an evil Halloween mask manufacturer decides to conquer the world by turning all the little children's heads into snakes and bugs. I know, weak!

Starring a chubby Tom Atkins, this movie is part of the series, but since the screenplay is not part of the story line in whole, you can skip it.

Halloween 4 The Return of Michael Myers, some argue the best in the series since the original, brought back Donald Pleasance as Dr. Loomis. Michael is again actively stalking and killing family members, this time his niece, Jamie. (Laurie had a girl and then mysteriously died, hmm...) and her step-sister, played by Danielle Harris. The little girl is traumatized, but seems to recover quickly only to be trapped by Michael. Unfortunately, Michael sees fit to pick off big sis, but neverfear Jamie and the hot friend, play by Kathleen Kinmont make it out alive.

I enjoyed this one and thought it was a nice return to the original scare techniques used in the first Halloween, although there are many discrepancies in this movie. Such as, how can Michael Myers drive a tow drunk, hasn't he been locked up since he was 5?

Halloween 5 The Revenge of Michael Myers brought new meaning to the word "sucks." This movie broke a lot of the conventional rules of a great horror film, like the police are never supposed to help you out. In H1 and H2 the police barely believe Dr. Loomis, but in H5 they give him the entire Haddonville police department! Also the only likeable character dies very close to the beginning and you are left with people whom you prey for the death of! It's bad, but since it's in the series you have to see it.

Halloween 6 The Curse of Michael Myers, these titles are beginning to feel like the damn Planet of the Apes titles! Next it will be Battle to Escape from the Night of the Planet of Michael Myers! Yeesh! In this one we get to see the dysfunctional family that little Laurie grew up in, almost making the Myers' look normal. The Strode family start off as your typical American family, no morals, father's got a crooked real estate business going,

continued on page 7

Trent Reznor reveals his 'Fragile' side



4 1/2 stars

by Robin E. Sandberg

After a long absence, Trent Reznor has returned to Nine Inch Nails with a two-CD set, "The Fragile." The 23 unique and darkly poetic songs on this set reveal that Reznor's transformation is still going on.

Reznor burst onto the music scene as a solo artist in 1989 with his debut, "Pretty Hate Machine," giving voice to teen-age angst and inspiration for the

Goth look.

When he began to make a big impression, both good and bad, on the public, he decided to pick up some backup band members

and Nine Inch Nails was formed.

A second album, "Downward Spiral," arose soon after, bringing Nine Inch Nails into the mainstream and also showing that Reznor had more than a few tricks up his sleeve.

So when "Fragile" came out, we expected nothing but greatness (not too much pressure!) from the man who had created "closer," "Head Like a Hole," and "Perfect Drug." Thankfully, "Fragile" delivers.

With his combination of alternative and industrial music blended with obscure lyrics, Reznor stands in a category all his own. Just remember: Never expect a Nine Inch Nails album to be like the last one. That would certainly be a disappointment.



Small town has big problems

by Robin Sandberg



"Mumford" gleefully exploits the ironies and absurdities of small-town life. At the helm of this ship of dysfunction is a psychiatrist with more angst and secrets than the patients he treats. Yet with his uncanny insights and unusual approach to healing, Dr. Mumford helps the townspeople realize things about themselves and in the process realizes much about himself.

These townspeople include a 20something billionaire who hires Mumford as a friend; a town pharma-

cist filled with sexual fantasies; and a beautiful woman who is so little energy, she can barely make it to the sessions.

When I viewed this movie, I seemed to be alone in my enthusiasm for it. I laughed at every joke, felt my heartstrings being pulled at every sad moment, and felt joy when things worked out, while everyone else in the theater booed. The comments I remember are, "If this movie doesn't pick up, I'm going to leave"; "The previews made it look a lot better"; and "Let me redo it and I'll make it a good movie."

There was very little lacking in "Mumford," unless you consider violence, gratuitous sex and mindless babble necessary for a great movie. The plot moves smoothly and consistently, while the characters develop into real and passionate persons. "Mumford" is an excellent movie and I recommend it to all.

In the game of life, there's plenty of room for everyone

by Ben Reed

You don't have to play sports to feel like a winner; that's a lesson I learned long before I came to college.

The lesson had started to sink in by junior high school, in fact, when I was left standing alone as teams were chosen in gym class. I knew I wasn't especially good at sports, although I tried to be.

I played basketball for five years and soccer for one, but I just never had the coordination. My baskets would bounce off the rim at the most crucial moment in the game, or I'd kick the soccer ball into the wrong goal. I was laughed at because, after all, boys were supposed to be athletic.

Despite the constant put-downs and insults, I managed to have an enjoyable time at school.

While I didn't excel in sports, I did in other areas. Music was one of them. I started playing the saxophone while I was in the fifth grade, and went on to win many awards for my musical abilities.

I'll never forget the overwhelming feeling of accomplishment when I found out I had been selected as one of the best saxophone players in southeastern Massachusetts. It was one of my proudest moments. I also had the opportunity to travel around the country and play in a variety of places, includ-

ing Disney World.

Many of the athletes who had mocked me earlier never had the opportunity, through sports, to do what I had done through music.

I was also able to devote some of my time to the Boy Scouts. From my experiences with that organization, I have learned a great deal about working as part of a team and getting along with other people. At the same time, I had a lot of fun camping, skiing, and traveling to exciting places. There's no sensation that can match sitting next to a warm, cozy fire under the stars with no worries or responsibilities.

I was even able to earn a prestigious Eagle Scout award by completing a project that involved painting the fire hydrants in my town.

Not only did this teach me how to be an effective leader, it will also help me in the future when I look for a job.

Being an athlete at my school was a tough commitment. Since my time was not committed to sports, I had the freedom to pursue a rewarding hobby: magic.

After school I would practice the art until I was skilled enough to perform at malls, festivals, weddings, and of course, birthday parties. The smiles on children's faces after I make the impossible seem possible are worth all the work I put into it.

In five years of performing, I have



met people from all walks of life. I've made friends from as far away as South Africa while attending magic conventions. Magic is a hobby that I will enjoy for the rest of my life.

While many people may think that not being able to play sports is a disability for a guy, I would gladly argue the point. I've done amazing things with the time that wasn't spent playing ball.

If I had the chance to travel back in time and become the athlete that everyone said I should want to be, I wouldn't. I believe that everything in life happens for a reason.

Instead of looking at something as a disability, it's better to try to see the positive side of it. It's worked for me as I have no regrets, and I'm sure that it can work for others.

Poetry Corner presents...

Winter

by Theresa Journeau

Emersed in what I don't understand

*I've fallen into this dark oblivian
Beneath these cold and dark waves
Im lying*

*But there is something breathing in
my fears below me*

Waiting

*And it seems winter has fallen
upon this lake*

I'll fade into its coldness

Another season will pass

As my body starts to grow numb

Darkness continues to fill me

And I think this final thought

In winter everything dies

To be reborn

*Caught in the deepness of your
eyes*

You keep on looking at me

Not knowing im inside you

No use staring at this dimming figure

In front of you

Unless you can't see me

You continue looking at me

Expecting me to say something

While im whispering inside you

Gently tugging at your heart

Love have I ever found it?

Now love seems for me

To have only been spun with hopeless threads

Never becoming the warm blanket

That might cover me

Which I could pull to my quivering chin

Losing my tears in its folds

*How many nights have I pondered
that look in your eyes*

You tell me its love when you hold me

*And i remain trembling as I always
am with you*

Then all i feel from you

Is not love

But just the need to hold me

Halloween,

continued from page 6

mother is a mindless house wife, children are ungrateful brats, except for the single mother one whom everyone treats like a ho!

Look carefully at that young man she falls for because that's little Tommy Doyle all grown up! The actors have changed but the character remained the same and for some perverse reason he just loves to relive the night he was almost hacked to death by a deranged psycho killer. The exact reason he moves back into the house it happened in!

Tommy finds a baby and like most college-aged males is completely prepared to handle the large responsibility for caring for another human life totally dependent upon him! That baby is non-other than Laurie Strode's granddaughter, Jamie's child whom she saves from Michael by planting her on a nun

or something at a bus station, I dunno.

Potentially scary this film incorporates a list of religious mumbo-jumbo about Michael being cursed and a druid which only serves to make one wonder how this ever got funded. But again, it's part of the series and unfortunately not skippable.

Halloween 7 H20, the twentieth anniversary, an end of an era. Laurie's not dead, she simply changed her name and with no credentials or legal identification she got a job as the headmistress of a very posh private school in California, you go girl! Unfortunately Michael, who is evidently psychic, finds this address and arrives two months late for his nephew's 17th birthday. H20, directed by Steve Miner brings back Jamie Lee Curtis and unites her with her mother Janet Leigh (two scream

queens, one movie) for a great film that should have been titled Halloween 7 The Revenge of Laurie Strode. Curtis plays a functioning alcoholic who battles visions and nightmares of her brothers vicious attack daily. Her smart mouthed son decides to ditch his trip to Yosemite and kick it with the blonde from Dawson's Creek. Unfortunately everybody favorite uncle is in town!

This one is a must see! If you want to do Halloween right get a big bowl of popcorn and settle in for a long night. For those of you in need of an abbreviated list 1, 2 & 7 make for viewing fun and you don't need the plots from the others to help you understand what's going on. Course if you can't figure out what's going on in a horror movie I'm not sure what you're doing in college.

School stories by Adanna Agbo

The one I loved

The following is a piece of literature and is NOT to be interpreted as a news story. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is not intentional.

Walking around that night, the late summer, early fall breeze blowing freely around me, I reached deep in that part of my brain that was meant for thinking, for reminiscing.

It was the kind of night that was perfect for walking with the one you love, holding hands, and enjoying the silent company of each other. It was the kind of night that kisses under the moonlight were blessed and heavenly. Birds fast asleep, the trees swaying in a blues dance motion.

I took a deep breath and inhaled the peacefulness that nature offered. Peace that couldn't put at ease my restless soul. My heart felt heavy, as if there was a ton of bricks in it weighing me down.

I could feel tear drops fall from my heart to my soul; my soul like a rising ocean floor. My spirit wept. I could hear my footsteps, slowly and ungracefully; I walked searching in my soul for answers. Like a garment filled box, the right dress was hard to find.

Ginger was the gin that intoxicated me. I used to be "the man", playing the field, but she changed all that. I had the babes at the tip of my fingers, one snap and they came running. I just had to whisper, and readiness was manifested. It was fun, it was life, and I was living it.

Then I met Ginger. She was a freshman, and I was a sophomore. She was good looking, and I just had to have her. I succeeded, went through first, second, third and even fourth base. I always preached, swim in the ocean, but don't drown. With Ginger, I drowned.

There was something different about her, something that made me want to have her, to be mine and mine only. For the first time in my life, I was sprung. The tips of my fingers went numb; I actually started caring for someone.

At first it felt weird, horrible in fact, but I pulled through. I guess I loved her that much. I did things for her that I never did for anyone else, let alone a girl. She was everything to me, and I was content.

Everything was going good, I was a senior, and life couldn't be more fulfilling. I had my wonderful relationship

with Ginger, and I was finally getting out of college. With life's blessing shining on me, I surged on to plan my future, with Ginger in the picture. I honestly thought life couldn't get any better, until Ginger started acting weird.

She suggested we explore new things, and suggested we have a threesome. At first I didn't want to do it, because I didn't want to share her sweetness with anyone else, and I also feared what the outcome might be. After a while, she managed to persuade me into it, after all, I was doing it for her.

She chose the guy, and although I was uncomfortable with the whole thing, I went through with it. After that, things went back to normal, so I thought. Although I sensed something was going on, I dismissed all my suspicions. The love I felt blindfolded so bad that even my instincts were not paid attention to.

I had gone home one weekend; it was my mum's birthday. I invited Ginger, but she claimed she had an exam on Monday morning, and needed to study. I left home early, back to school. My mum wasn't happy, but I had to go see Ginger, and maybe help her study for her exam. I had the keys to her room, so as usual, I let myself in.

The scene that I saw was heart wrenching. My Ginger was in her room with five guys, and they weren't studying. It was like a scene from a playboy movie. They all stopped when they saw me, I was furious, but I controlled myself.

That was the first time my brain worked fast enough, I shouted three or more angry curse filled sentences, left the room and banged shut the door. I should have listened to my mum when she always told me to knock before entering.

So there I was, in the middle of the night asking for a reason. My heart torn in shreds, my soul weeping like a woman that just lost a child. Where do I go from here? I looked up, and the moon's light shone on me. I prayed for strength to live through it. I prayed for endurance.

Mr. Free Advice

Because advice is always worth the price you paid for it!

This column is a parody and not to be taken seriously. On a personal note, please be aware that you should not ask the advice of anyone who works for The Point, we're not good people..

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

I really love this guy I'm seeing, but sometimes it doesn't seem like he's going to commit to this relationship or to me. He's a really great guy, but we've been dating for months and I haven't gotten any signs that he wants to commit to a long term exclusive relationship. He says he does, but wouldn't I get some jewelry or something out of the deal?

Miser in Miller

Dear Miser,

First off, what are you doing living in Miller? Anyway, the answer to your problem is quite simple: Cheat on him! If he really loves you he'll kill the guy he caught you with and then spend the rest of his adult life in jail while you get to visit wonderful people like Oprah, Ricki, and Phil! I think it's the only solution because if you don't ever find out it will eat at you forever. Good luck, and if possible find the biggest loser to cheat on him with!

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

I'm not an attractive guy, I'm about three hundred pounds I have nasty scraggly hair and bad skin, but I want a woman! I had this one girl with me for a while, but she wasn't very pretty, she had blonde hair, blue eyes, but she was short and I want a tall woman. Also I don't want to pay for anything, like taking her out on dates. I just want a nice girl to do the dishes, clean my apartment and give me lovin' whenever I demand it! What should I do?

Loser from Leominster

Dear Loser,

If you want your apartment cleaned then hire a maid. If you

-AnneMarie Donahue, Editor-in-Chief
want your dishes washed, then hire a dish-washer. Finally, if you want lovin' whenever you demand it then hire a prostitute! You can't expect women to go for total jerks and stick with them, well okay you can, but only if the total jerk is good looking!

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

I'm going to flunk my class! I can't afford to fail another thing because I'll flunk out of school and then my parents will make me work this bogus job in the mall! I don't want to do that, everything up here is great it's nothing but beer and parties! I don't know what to do, please help me!

Irresponsible in Russell

Dear Irresponsible,

Try sleeping with the teacher. Either way you win! If the teacher sleeps with you then you get a good grade (of course you'd better be good in bed). And if he doesn't then threaten him with a sexual harassment complaint. Nobody can resist the scare of a good old fashioned sexual harassment complaint suit! It's just a win-win situation.

Dear Mr. Free Advice,

I killed my roommate last night and know I'm having a hard time hiding the body! What should I do?

Murderer in Mara

Dear Fool,

Next time you kill someone try not to alert the entire campus to this by NOT writing to the newspaper! Then next knock on your door should be the police. I hope you're ready for some lovin' from Burno!

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Lancers can't tame the soaring Falcons

by Thomas Mahoney

When members of the Fitchburg State College football team arrived at Worcester State to face their arch rivals, visions of past losses must have swirled through their heads. After all, the Falcons had lost 14 of their last 15 games to the Lancers, and had just finished a wicked battle against Westfield State that had given them little time to prepare.

By the end, however, these visions were replaced with scenes of victory. "We handled adversity ... stuck together as a team and won the football game," FSC coach Dave Flynn said. Still, when a holding penalty made it first-and-20 on Fitchburg's 33, with less than three minutes to go in the game and the Falcons down 16-13, fans had reason to feel nervous. Then Rich Boardman calmly threw a timely 43-yard pass to Tanner Grove that unnerved Worcester State. Enter

D'Andre Freeman (31 carries for 117 yards and three touchdowns), who grabbed the ball from Boardman and faked inside, sending the entire Lancer defense charging to the right while he hopped outside and sprinted down the left sideline for his third touchdown. A blocked extra point kept Worcester within field-goal range at 19-16. Worcester got the ball back on the ensuing kickoff, and returned it to the 28.

But the Falcons' swarming defense attacked with talons extended all game. "That's the kind of attitude we're trying to bring to the school," Junior Captain Jason Smith said. "Never give up, play attack defense and get after them." An incomplete pass, and a huge sack by Jason Sadorblum, followed by a quick pass out of the backfield, made it fourth and 15 and revenge looked sweet for FSC. But Worcester's resourceful quarterback Mike Weiss scrambled up the middle for 15 yards and a first down. Weiss desperately reassembled his

offense to spike the ball, and stopped the clock with only 35 seconds left in the game. The Lancers came to line on second and 10 and scouted FSC's defense.

"We're a defense-oriented team," said Scott Cormier. "We attack the quarterback on every play." The soaring defense caused three straight incomplete passes, forcing Worcester State to go for it on fourth and 10. But the Falcons, refusing to be tamed, blitzed Worcester's new QB Chad Sexton.

Sexton had to scramble to the right, where Scott Dredge swooped down and annihilated him from behind, forcing a fumble. The ball bounced crazily around on the turf until it was scooped up by Redford Salmon, who jogged effortlessly into the end zone as time expired, for a 25-16 Falcon win.

"We made some mistakes in that red zone, but we kept our poise, and we knew we could score, so we just kept

coming after them," Coach Flynn said. Both teams came out playing vicious defense in the first half, sacking the quarterbacks repeatedly. But after Eric Meyer sacked Weiss, and forced a fumble that was recovered by FSC, Boardman was able to throw a quick fade to Gene Clemons, who caught the ball and fell down on the one-foot line. It took Freeman three attempts to score from that line and give FSC a 7-0 lead. Weiss threw to Frisch to tie the game at 7-7 with 6:04 to go in the first.

Both teams were unable to stop the ruthless pass rushers, and went into halftime tied at 7. Worcester kicked a field goal in the third quarter to make it 10-7. But FSC quickly drove downfield to go ahead on Freeman's 22-yard TD run. A missed field goal made it 13-10. A long drive by the Lancers ended in a 9-yard TD run by Chris Parker, but FSC blocked the extra-point attempt to hold the score at 16-13. Final score: Fitchburg 25-Worcester 16.

Fans' pessimism gets put to the test

by Thomas Mahoney

It was the best of games, it was the worst of games; it was last weekend's Patriots-Browns game.

Was it enough to turn you into a sports pessimist? Take the following test to find out:

1. Do you think the Patriots have played well this season?

No - They have barely beaten three real teams, and needed a miracle to beat an expansion team

Yes - They knocked the Jets out of the playoffs in the first week of the season, and had a miraculous second-half comeback against the underrated Colts

2. Did you find last week's victory satisfying?

No - Cleveland sucks! They're the worst team in the league, and not blowing them out was pitiful

Yes - Just win, baby!

3. Do you think Drew Bledsoe is the best QB in the game?

No - Oh, please - Favre, Young, and Marino are all better, and Bledsoe is only fourth in the NFL's QB rating system

Yes - OK, maybe this is pushing it a lit-

tle, and yes, Brett Favre is averaging 354 yards per game to Bledsoe's 326, but Bledsoe has a very limited rushing game, and has a QB rating of an amazing 122.9, to Favre's 102.6.

4. Do you think Terry Glenn had a great game against the Browns?

No - His first-half fumbles prevented the Patriots from putting the Browns away early

Yes - So he made two mistakes early; when the team needed him, he responded with the best receiving game in New England history, 13 catches for a ridiculous 214 yards

5. Is the Pats' running game good enough to win it all?

No - They averaged 2.6 yards per carry on 34 attempts for a measly 90 yards against the worst defense in the NFL

Yes - Terry Allen is averaging 3.5 yards; not great, but good enough. Besides, in the NFL it's the number of carries that's important, not averages. Teams that rush the ball over 30 times a game win over 80 percent of the time regardless of average yards per carry.

6. Do you like the Patriots' defense?

No - They gave up 28 points in the first two games, and allowed the Browns to stay in the game.

Yes - They beat the crap out of the Jets. They shouted down Indianapolis and the Giants in the

second half, and even though it seemed close against the Browns, they only allowed one TD, and

Cleveland looked hopeless in the fourth quarter.

7. Did the Pats fill in holes in personnel nicely during the off-season?

No - Free-agent defections of Dave Wohlabaugh and Todd Collins plus injuries in Ted Johnson and Walker have ruined the team's chances at the Super Bowl.

Yes - Dave who? Damien Woody has become a force in the middle, and Andy Katzenmoyer led the team in tackles against the Browns. Teddy Bruschi is a maniac. Walker's tragic injury was hard to take, but Allen has really stepped in and played well.

8. Is the offensive line likely to hold up all season?

No - Are you kidding? They gave up four sacks to the second-worst defense in the league, and Bledsoe was hit all day.

Yes - They are veterans who just had two young players put in the middle. Besides, the Browns

played a crazy defense, lining up twice without a player on the line of scrimmage. Cleveland picked up some good players in free agency, and their defense will continue to improve all season.

9. Is Troy Brown having a great season?

No - He's too small, and only plays in obvious passing downs. You need to be a starter to have a great season.

Yes - He just amazes me. He's such a small guy, but no one can tackle him alone. Did you see him break four tackles on that catch in the first half? He's got the heart of a lion.

10. Will the Pats be in the Super Bowl?

No - Can't run, offensive line stinks, and Carroll sucks

Yes - They have the best passing game in the league. Their defense destroys people in the second

half when it counts, and who's going to beat them? The only two teams in the AFC that have a

chance are Miami and Jacksonville, with the Colts and Bills starting to put it together. Personally, I would bet on the Pats against any of those four teams.

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